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Federal Aviation Administration
Office of the Chief Counsel
Attn. Rules Docket (AGC - 200)
Docket No. 28770
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

FAA-03-14715-50

February 24, 1997

To Whom it Concerns -

I would like to first thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion and expect that you will give my comments consideration and thoughtful deliberation.

I am writing regarding noise standards and aircraft overflights in Grand Canyon National Park. While I believe that out public lands should be available to as many members of the public as realistically possible, up until recently, the majority of these uses were relatively quiet by their nature (hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, grazing, float trips, pack trips, rock climbing, with logging and mining a more audible use, but restricted to specific areas and their audible impact not nearly as far reaching as overflights).

I now see an increase in louder recreation: off-road vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, aircraft overflights, motorboats, snowmobiling, etc.. I consider these uses to be as disturbing and unhealthy to non-participants who have such activity involuntarily inflicted upon them as the dangerously unhealthy air quality found in cities such as Los Angeles or Salt Lake City, or in indoor areas where smokers are unrestricted. In both scenarios, non-participants may find it virtually impossible to relieve themselves of such noise pollution or air pollution. This is a restriction on their freedom!

All this is to say that I am highly disappointed, disgusted and angered regarding the complete lack of consideration given to the millions of people who seek peace and quiet in out public lands. I feel immensely fortunate that the nearby Rocky Mountain National Park has recently enacted a ban on all overflights, but the noisier Grand Canyon becomes, I guarantee this will have a tremendous negative impact on visitor satisfaction, as well as, ultimately, the Park's loss in revenues from angry members of the public.

I am asking you to not simply "reconsider" your virtual lack of overflight restrictions as well as permissible noise levels, but to CHANGE them to be more restrictive and sensitive not just to human visitors but to the wildlife inhabitants in Grand Canyon.

Please send me only relevant information regarding the possibility of the FAA changing its regulations and noise standards to something more restrictive.

Thank you again for the opportunity to voice my comments and opinions on these matters.

Sincerely,

Christine Earley
Christine Earley

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